

D R A F T

MINUTES

Southside Economic Development Committee

March 20, 2002; 1:00 pm
Southern Virginia Higher Education Center
South Boston, Virginia

Members Present

Delegate Hogan
Senator Ruff
Mr. Taylor
Ms. Thomas
Mr. Walker
Mr. Watkins
Delegate Wright
Mr. Arthur

Mr. Arthur opened the meeting at 1:00 pm and welcomed the Delegate Hogan and Delegate Wright to the Committee.

Mr. Currin called the roll.

Mr. Joe Morgan welcomed everyone to Halifax County.

Senator Ruff moved to approve the minutes from the December 20, 2002 meeting of the Committee.

Motion seconded

All in favor by aye vote

None opposed

Motion adopted

Mr. Currin spoke to the Committee about staff proposed grant reimbursement policies he hopes to have adopted at the April 11th meeting of the Commission. (Information attached)

Mr. Arthur reinforced the importance of these policies.

Mr. Currin then addressed the situation of unmet grant approval contingencies. It is staff's recommendation that the Commission implement policies to deal with these circumstances. Perhaps after one year of failure to meet the contingencies the awarded amount would be returned to the allocation and be available for the next round of applications.

D R A F T

Mr. Arthur agreed with one year as a reasonable time period but in some instances there could be extenuating circumstances. They should have the opportunity to discuss any such circumstances with the committee who would have the option of granting an extension.

Senator Ruff stated that if that policy would be established it would also need to be established that at the next meeting of the economic development committee the committee should be able to review the requests and make any appropriate changes or extensions.

Mr. Arthur agreed and added that they could discuss it at the April 11th meeting.

Delegate Wright brought up the possibility that Commission's funds would be contingent on matching funds that were in turn contingent on Commission funds. How would this situation be remedied?

Ms. Thomas suggested that a letter of intent could be issued to satisfy any contingencies.

Mr. Currin stated that if this is a policy adopted by the Commission, he could be authorized to provide such a letter on behalf of the Commission.

Mr. Watkins moved to recommend to the Commission that such a policy on unmet contingencies be adopted.

Motion seconded

All in favor by aye vote

None opposed

Motion adopted

Mr. Currin pointed out to the Committee that in their packets was a letter from Michael Burnette, Patrick County Economic Development Director, stating that the County is withdrawing their Target Market Study Application. The County was able to secure funding for this study from the Workforce Investment Act Board.

Mr. Currin then proceeded to his presentation, which is attached. He also introduced the review panel.

Mr. Arthur stated that the Committee would go through the applications one at a time allowing Committee members and audience members to make comments.

Senator Ruff brought up one proposal that wasn't on the list. The STEPS application was not on the list.

It was clarified that the STEPS application was moved to the Special Projects Committee.

Application review began; see attached worksheet of panel recommendations.

D R A F T

Amelia County Business Park Expansion

Delegate Wright moved to recommend for approval \$ 167, 174 to Amelia County for the Business Park Expansion contingent upon the county providing proof of funding from other source.

Motion seconded

All in favor by aye vote

None opposed

Motion adopted

Appomattox County Workforce Training Center Study

Mr. Walker asked if there was any reason why these funds wouldn't be available through the Workforce Investment Act Board.

Senator Ruff stated that he would suggest that all workforce-training applications be held so that they can all be looked at together.

Ms. Thomas asked the panel what the differentiating factors were between the studies that were recommended and those that were not.

Mr. Currin responded that the panel did not approve those studies with out letters of support from the jurisdictions in which the study was going to take place.

Committee moved to hold workforce-training applications until the end of the discussion when they could be looked at all together.

Bedford County New London Business and Technology Center

Request exceeded allocation. Panel recommended approval for amount remaining in allocation.

Mr. Watkins moved to recommend for approval \$34,467 to Bedford County for the New London Business and Technology Center.

Motion seconded

All in favor by aye vote

None opposed

Motion adopted

Brunswick County: St. Paul's College- Replacement of Sewer lines

No matching funds and minimal economic impact on community; panel did not recommend approval.

Ms. Joyce French of the Southside Planning District stated that she was not aware of the application.

Senator Ruff made a motion to recommend that St. Paul's College's request for \$375,000 to replace sewer lines not be approved.

Motion seconded

D R A F T

*All in favor by aye vote
None opposed
Motion adopted*

Brunswick County: St. Paul's College- Aquaculture Demonstration Site Expansion

Did not clearly demonstrate a significant economic impact on the community or way to sustain project in future.

Delegate Hogan made to motion to recommend to the Commission the St. Paul's application for \$300,000 for Aquaculture Demonstration Site expansion not be approved for funding.

Motion seconded

All in favor by aye vote

None opposed

Motion adopted

Town of Alberta SNET Ring

Senator Ruff asked if the application would return to this Committee for reconsideration if the Task Force does not approve it.

Mr. Arthur responded that the Commission could choose to refer the application back to the Economic Development Committee.

Senator Ruff voiced his concern that a worthwhile project could get lost in the shuffle.

Senator Ruff moved to recommend that this application be reviewed by the e58 Task Force.

Motion seconded

All in favor by aye vote

None opposed

Motion adopted

Town of Lawrenceville Water Expansion Project

Delegate Wright moved to recommend the Commission approve a grant of \$748,160 for Lawrenceville for the Water Expansion Project.

Motion seconded

All in favor by aye vote

None opposed

Motion adopted

Brunswick County IDA- Economic Development Plan

Ms. French spoke to the crucial nature of this project.

D R A F T

Delegate Wright made a motion to recommend that the Brunswick County IDA be awarded a \$103,500 grant for their economic development plan contingent on their providing clarification of an itemized budget.

Motion seconded

Delegate Hogan stated that this project should be looked at with the other studies.

Mr. Walker and Senator Ruff agreed.

Delegate Wright withdrew his motion.

The application was held for review at the end of the meeting.

Brunswick County IDA: Alberta Business Park

Senator Ruff made a motion to recommend approval of this request for \$90,000 for the Alberta Business Park.

Motion seconded

All in favor by aye vote

None opposed

Motion adopted

Buckingham County Sewer Line Extension

Mr. Neal Barber stated that there was no indication of the source of the other funding and suggested that the grant be approved contingent upon document of additional funding.

Mr. Watkins made a motion to adopt such contingencies.

Motion seconded

All in favor by aye vote

None opposed

Motion adopted

Ms. Stephanie Hamlett of the Virginia's Heartland commented that this was an important project to Buckingham County.

Mr. Walker asked if this was a continuation of a project the Commission partially funded last year.

Ms. Hamlett confirmed that.

Ms. Stephanie Wass added that this was one of the counties whose funds had not yet been disbursed.

D R A F T

Senator Ruff asked how much last year's grant was.

Ms. Wass stated it was \$24, 087.

Ms. Hamlett added that Buckingham has made progress getting together the additional funding, but she is not aware of exactly where they stand.

Senator Ruff asked if she foresaw a problem in adding the contingency.

Ms. Hamlett replied that they might need longer than a year to meet the contingencies.

Senator Ruff moved to extend Buckingham County's contingencies from last years funding for an additional year and recommend for approval their application for \$17,955 contingent upon documentation of additional funding necessary to complete the project.

Motion seconded

All in favor by aye vote

None opposed

Motion adopted

Campbell County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Project

Delegate Hogan moved to delay this application with the other studies.

Motion seconded

All in favor by aye vote

None opposed

Motion adopted

Campbell County Brookneal Industrial Park Water Line Project

Mr. Walker made a motion to approve \$267,981 grant to Campbell County contingent upon receiving easements and rights of way.

Motion seconded

All in favor by aye vote

None opposed

Motion adopted

Virginia's Region 2000: Manufacturing Training Shortfalls

Mr. Currin stated that **Mr. Stan Goldsmith** of the Region 2000 feels that the Special Projects Committee should hear this project.

Senator Ruff made a motion to refer the request to the Special Projects Committee.

D R A F T

Motion Seconded
All in favor by aye vote
None opposed
Motion adopted

Virginia's Region 2000: Technology Study

Senator Ruff made a motion to support the panel recommendation not to fund this project.

Motion Seconded
All in favor by aye vote
None opposed
Motion adopted

Virginia's Heartland Partnership (Charlotte & Prince Edward Counties)

Mr. Walker made a motion to support the panel recommendation to fund this request in the amount of the counties' available allocation, \$728,883.

Motion Seconded
All in favor by aye vote
None opposed
Motion adopted

Cumberland County

Ms. Sherry Swinson explained that this request is for a water-storage tank and fire-suppression system for their industrial park. The Town of Farmville has committed to out up funds as well.

Senator Ruff made a motion to recommend approval of this request as recommended by the panel, contingent on documentation of a cash match.

Motion seconded.

Mr. Watkins asked if this request should come out of deal closing funds since it is immediately creating jobs.

Mr. Taylor noted that deal closing funds are reserved for helping localities bring a particular industry to their area, not for general expansion purposes.

Mr. Currin added that the deal closing guidelines require a minimum job creation of 25 and \$1 million capital investment.

All in favor by aye vote
None opposed
Motion passed

Dinwiddie County Industrial Park- Phase 1

The County concurred with staff's recommendation to approve \$50,000 for this project with the balance of \$1,519,907 contingent on documentation that the project can be completed for the amount requested.

D R A F T

Senator Ruff made a motion to approve the recommendation of staff.

Motion seconded

All in favor by aye vote

None opposed

Motion accepted.

Town of McKenney Medical Facility

The County of Dinwiddie was unaware that the Facility put forth this request.

Senator Ruff made a motion to approve panel recommendation to deny approval of the project request.

Motion seconded

All in favor by aye vote

None opposed

Motion accepted

Crater Regional Partnership

Senator Ruff requested that this proposal be moved to the end of the agenda.

Franklin County: Basic Adult Education Services

Delegate Hogan asked if this request was for program money.

Senator Ruff requested that the education requests be looked together.

Ferrum College Industrial Park Study

Request to be hear with other studies later on the agenda

Franklin County Industry Training Fund

Request moved to the end of the agenda.

Franklin County: Water Line Extension

Mr. Rick Huff, Franklin County Administrator, noted that the Industrial Park is currently in place, but does not have any water or sewage. The previous request for a study is to investigate the potential for linkages with the Ferrum College.

The project was also held until the end of the meeting.

Franklin County: HVAC Career and Technical Courses

Project held.

D R A F T

Delegate Hogan requested the group of projects being held until the end of the meeting be split into two categories, studies and workforce development/program requests.

Franklin County: Workforce Development & Skills Training

Request held.

Franklin County: Preliminary Site Selection Study

Mr. Huff noted that workforce development is the number one priority for Franklin County.

Senator Ruff made a motion to approve staff's recommendation to defer request until construction funding for I-73 corridor has been committed.

Motion seconded

All in favor by aye vote

None opposed

Motion accepted.

Greenville County Shell Building Incentive Fund

Ms. Thomas noted that her understanding was that the County wanted these funds to hold to use as an incentive when an industry presented itself for location in the building.

Mr. Barber added that the application indicated that the county is in negotiations with a prospect.

Mr. Steve Coleman with Greenville County confirmed that the County is actively pursuing a client at this time and the money would be used as incentive.

Delegate Hogan asked why this request isn't Deal Closing.

Mr. Coleman stated that he is not aware of the Deal Closing fund.

Mr. Barber clarified that the staff recommendation was meant to provide the County with the flexibility to use either the deal closing funds or their allocation.

Delegate Wright made a motion to approve the panel recommendation for the Greenville County Shell Building application.

Motion seconded

All in favor by aye vote

None opposed

Motion accepted.

Greenville County: Continuing Education Center Feasibility Study

To be discussed with other studies.

William E. Tuck Airport

Mr. Watkins made a motion to approve the request.

Motion seconded

All in favor by aye vote

D R A F T

None opposed
Motion accepted.

The Prizery Renovation Project

Ms. Joyce French spoke on behalf of this project stating that they have been told their area was in need of cultural amenities, which is what this project is doing.

Mr. Ted Daniel, Town Manager of South Boston, added that this request was part of their economic development package.

Delegate Hogan suggested holding this request until the other Halifax applications had been heard.

Halifax County Tobacco Barn Conversions

Mr. Taylor asked where these people in need of conversion were when the previous programs took place to assist the farmers with the necessary conversion

Mr. Arthur replied that it was stated in the application that they had chosen not to participate.

Mr. Taylor and **Mrs. Thomas** expressed concern over providing some farmers with the funds to complete this conversion when others have already incurred the expense.

Mr. Joe Morgan, Halifax County Administrator, explained that this request was aimed to assist those farmers with small allotments who would not have gotten enough assistance from the previous programs to complete the conversion. These farmers, because of the small size of their allotment, did not qualify for adequate funding to be able to convert their barns.

Mr. Watkins noted that this request is not within the charges of the Commission.

Mr. Vassey stated that the panel felt this could be an opportunity to provide a low-interest loan through the IDA.

Mr. Watkins asked if the Special Projects Committee should hear this request.

Senator Ruff made a motion to allow any County to authorize a lost cost loan, from their allotment, handled through the IDA, requiring an affirmative vote by the IDA.

Mr. Vassey noted a precedent for this type of loan at 3 percent interest.

Senator Ruff added to his motion that this would be a 3 percent loan.

Motion seconded

Mr. Watkins stated that it needed to be added that this is for small farmers.

Delegate Hogan noted that the large farmers have already converted their barns.

Mr. Taylor put forth a substitute motion to bring the request before the full Commission.

It was noted that all requests go before the entire Commission.

No second, motion failed

Mr. Arno stated that staff of the Commission and the IDA would work out the details of the loan.

Delegate Hogan made a substitute motion to refer this project to the Special Projects Committee.

Motion seconded

Delegate Hogan noted that loan policies can be quite difficult and can be easily misused. Perhaps the Special Projects Committee can take a closer look at this type of request.

D R A F T

Mr. Arthur asked **Delegate Hogan** if he would be willing to refer the request to the Executive Committee rather than Special Projects.

Delegate Hogan withdrew his motion.

Mr. Watkins made a substitute motion to refer this project to the Executive Committee for consideration.

Motion seconded

All in favor by aye vote

None opposed

Motion accepted.

Halifax County Agricultural Center

Mr. Watkins stated that he cannot see spending \$200,000 on this project when it does not accomplish a great deal.

Delegate Hogan asked if there was a projected revenue stream.

Mr. Morgan & Ms. Wallace responded that this is not a cooperative; it is live stock producers pooling their resources.

Senator Ruff asked for clarification on what this facility would be used for.

Ms. Wallace stated that this was a regional project.

Senator Ruff asked where this would go after 2-3 years.

Mr. Morgan replied that it would be self-run by the Alliance; the County is just going to help get it started.

Senator Ruff requested that the Committee come back to the request later in the agenda.

Halifax County IDA: Riverstone

Mr. Watkins made a motion to approve this project, in the amount of \$1,190,764, contingent upon receipt of VDOT funds.

Motion seconded

All in favor by aye vote

None opposed

Motion accepted.

South Boston-Halifax County Museum

Delegate Hogan stated that the Town and County had requested \$50,000 from the Commission and \$75,000 from the General Assembly, which they did not get. It is a good project. He proposed the Commission fund this project \$100,000.

Ms. Barbara Bass spoke to the Museum and the request.

Delegate Hogan made a motion to approve \$100,000 for the South Boston-Halifax County Museum, contingent upon the receipt of \$100,000 in matching funds.

Motion seconded

All in favor by aye vote

None opposed

Motion accepted.

D R A F T

Halifax Educational Foundation

Request held to be heard with other Education requests.

Town of Kenbridge Sewage Plant Upgrade

Delegate Wright made a motion to accept staff's recommendation, approving the request for \$799,883 contingent on documentation on ability to complete the project, receipt of additional funds and completion of Sections 3 & 5 of the application.

Motion seconded

All in favor by aye vote

None opposed

Motion accepted.

Virginia's Lakeside Commerce Park

Delegate Wright made a motion to recommend approval of the project request for \$500,000.

Motion seconded

All in favor by aye vote

None opposed

Motion accepted

Mecklenburg County IDA: Technology Infrastructure/DSL Switching

Senator Ruff made a motion to refer to the e58 Task Force.

Motion seconded

All in favor by aye vote

None opposed

Motion accepted

Chase City: Main Street Market

Ms. French stated that this was the last step in Chase City's downtown revitalization. This will bring people into the downtown, commercial area of Chase City. It will be more than a farmer's market.

Mr. Arthur asked if this would compete with any private enterprise.

Ms. French replied that there is a produce market on Main Street, but most of their produce is brought in from North Carolina and it is not a Farmer's Market.

Senator Ruff asked **Ms. French** to address the contingencies.

Ms. French responded that they did not see any problems with the contingencies.

Delegate Wright asked for the reasoning behind the contingency requiring the list of vendors.

Mr. Barber replied that it was intended to confirm that there were adequate vendors willing to utilize the facility.

Delegate Wright made a motion to accept the staff recommendation for this project.

Motion seconded

D R A F T

All in favor by aye vote
None opposed
Mr. Taylor: abstain
Motion accepted

South Hill IDA: Interstate Industrial Park

Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve request for \$400,000
Motion seconded
All in favor by aye vote
None opposed
Motion accepted

Town of Burkeville Depot Rehabilitation

Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve this request for \$80,000.
Motion seconded
All in favor by aye vote
None opposed
Motion accepted

M-Squared, Inc

Mr. Earl Moore, President of M-Squared, spoke to this request. They bought the land from the County for this KFC/A&W Burkeville Junction Project but it has no water/sewer. This project will create 70 jobs.

Delegate Hogan asked staff why it was not recommended for approval.

Mr. Currin responded that because it is a for-profit entity the Commission is unable to directly provide it with funds.

Senator Ruff asked if it could potentially meet the Deal Closing standards if there is an official application.

Mr. Currin confirmed that, adding that there must be 25 jobs created and an investment of at least \$1million.

Mr. Barber noted that the Commission's Deal Closing guidelines are similar to the Partnership's and they require a basic employer. This particular project therefore may not meet the guidelines.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to accept the staff's recommendation not to approve.

Motion seconded
All in favor by aye vote
None opposed
Motion accepted

Nottoway County Community Resource Project

D R A F T

Delegate Wright made a motion to accept the staff recommendation to approve \$118,235 for this project contingent upon an \$80,000 match from local funds and receipt of engineering and architectural estimates.

Motion seconded

Mr. Watkins asked for clarification on the project.

Mr. John Procise of Nottoway County explained that the equipment clearinghouse was set up for farmers with excess equipment to rent it out to other farmers so they would not have to purchase new or used equipment.

Those in favor by aye vote

Opposed: **Mr. Watkins**

Motion accepted

Patrick County Chamber of Commerce: Tourism Project

Mr. Currin stated that this project was not recommended for funding by the panel because there was no match and it did not show significant economic impact.

Delegate Hogan made a motion to accept the staff recommendation not to approve this project.

Motion seconded

All in favor by aye vote

None Opposed

Motion accepted

Patrick County Genealogy Society

Delegate Hogan made a motion to accept the staff recommendation not to approve this project.

Motion seconded

All in favor by aye vote

None opposed

Motion accepted

Patrick County IDA: Rich Creek

Mr. Mike Burnette, Patrick County Economic Development Director, explained that money is tight for the county and it will be a hardship to find a cash match.

Mr. Barber noted that the panel felt that based on the square footage, the costs seemed excessive.

Mr. Burnette responded that though this is a 10,000 square foot building, and somewhat smaller than most projects, they still have to deal with fixed construction costs.

Furthermore, there is additional site development that needs to be done.

Delegate Hogan asked why they are building a 10,000 square foot building.

Mr. Burnette stated that the projects coming to Patrick County tend to be smaller.

Delegate Hogan continued by asking if the County has a client/company in mind for the building.

D R A F T

Mr. Burnette replied that they did not. The County does not currently have any shell buildings.

Delegate Hogan noted that it is unlikely that a company looking to locate in a building of that small size would meet the qualification for GOF or TROF assistance.

Mr. Barber commented that the types of businesses that would suit this facility would more than likely be local or regional companies. He added that, by the cost breakdown provided in the application, the amount recommended by the panel would be enough to cover the site construction and slight site improvements.

Delegate Hogan asked if they wouldn't be better off to wait until they have a company to build the building to be sure the building would suit the company's needs.

Mr. Burnette responded that they have had that discussion within the County. However, a company may not be willing to or have the time to wait for a building to be constructed.

Senator Ruff commented that the Committee does not need to micromanage the communities. He then suggested they approve the entire request.

Mr. Arthur stated that the Committee cannot provide that funding without additional funds, the guidelines do not allow the Commission to be the sole contributor.

Senator Ruff made a motion to approve \$200,000 for this project.

Motion seconded

Delegate Hogan made a substitute motion to accept the staff recommendation to fund \$157,087 contingent upon a cash contribution.

Motion seconded

Senator Ruff reiterated his previous comment that the County probably knows what is best for them and the Committee should not micromanage.

Roll Call Vote (For substitute motion to accept staff's recommendation)

Delegate Hogan: Aye

Senator Ruff: Nay

Mr. Taylor: Aye

Ms. Thomas: Aye

Mr. Watkins: Nay

Delegate Wright: Nay

Mr. Arthur: Nay

Nay: 4 Aye: 3

Substitute motion fails

Original Motion to approve \$200,000 contingent upon a local or IDA contribution)

Those in favor by aye vote

Opposed: Mr. Taylor

Motion accepted

R.J. Reynolds-Patrick County Memorial Hospital

Staff did not approve this \$184,200 request but rather recommended a loan to go through the IDA, because the hospital is a 501(c)(3).

Senator Ruff made motion to approve \$161,000 contingent upon staff working out loan guidelines with the IDA prior to the next full Commission meeting.

Motion seconded

D R A F T

Those in favor by aye vote
Opposed: Mr. Arthur
Motion accepted

Pittsylvania County: Route 58 West Commercial and Industrial Parks

Mr. Dan Sleeper, Pittsylvania County Administrator, stated that the documentation called for in the staff recommended contingency could be available immediately. **Senator Ruff** made a motion to approve the staff recommendation to approve the request in the amount of \$2 million contingent upon documentation of the availability of utilities and a report of the engineering study the Commission funded last year.
Motion seconded
All in favor by aye vote
None opposed
Motion accepted

Pittsylvania County: Cyber Park

Mr. Sleeper commented that the contingency to provide documentation of the contribution from Danville Power and Light should not be a problem. **Delegate Wright** made a motion to accept the staff's recommendation to approve the request in the amount of \$300,000 contingent on the documented contribution of Danville Power and Light.
Motion seconded
All in favor by aye vote
None opposed
Motion accepted

Town of Gretna Industrial Park

Staff recommended approval of \$400,000 for this project contingent on Corp of Engineer approval and EPA approval. **Mr. Sleeper** stated that they are asking for the funding to complete the engineering for the Corps.
Mr. Watkins made a motion to approve the request in the amount of \$400,000 without contingencies.
Motion seconded
All in favor by aye vote
None opposed
Motion accepted

Town of Hurt Key Industrial Park

Mr. Sleeper explained that the County used their funds to purchase the land for this Park. Additionally, he would be happy to provide the Commission staff with appropriate documentation of additional sources of funding.

D R A F T

Senator Ruff made a motion to approve this request in the amount of \$138,000 contingent upon documentation of other sources of funding available to complete the project.

Motion seconded

All in favor by aye vote

None opposed

Motion accepted

Halifax Agriculture Center

Delegate Hogan made a motion to approve the panel recommendation for \$200,000.

No second, motion fails

Senator Ruff made a motion to direct staff to review the situation and declare feasibility for report at April meeting.

Motion seconded

Those in favor by aye vote

Opposed: Mr. Arthur

Motion accepted

Senator Ruff addressed the education and workforce training applications. He stated that he wanted to make sure that the Commission did not go down the path of bumping heads with other agencies and organizations dealing with workforce training. There must be coordination with these projects, particularly with the Community Colleges.

Delegate Hogan made a motion to defer action on the workforce training applications until plan is developed.

No second, motion failed.

Ms. French expressed her concern with the motion to defer all workforce-training applications. She spoke in support of the South Hill Community Development Association's Lake Country Advanced Knowledge Center. The need for this Center in the community is great and acknowledged.

Senator Ruff spoke to the importance of workforce-training programs and suggested that these projects be approved as long as the Community College was acting as the lead.

Delegate Hogan commented that the budgets of the Community Colleges are already tight. Also, it is crucial that the commitment the Tobacco Commission makes to workforce training be an overall commitment and that we don't spread ourselves out so thin that we are unable to sustain.

Senator Ruff responded that he appreciates **Delegate Hogan's** concerns. However, we need to get this workforce training to the people that need it.

D R A F T

Delegate Hogan stated that he is aware of at least a six outreach programs that Southside has and is sympathetic of the problem at hand. However, is this not further stretching a resource that is already stretched to the end?

Delegate Wright spoke in support of the workforce training projects and made a motion to approve the South Hill Community Development Association's application for the Lake Country Advanced Knowledge Center.

Mr. Arthur stated that the Commission should follow through with these projects.

*Motion seconded
Those in favor by Aye Vote
Opposed: **Delegate Hogan**
Motion passed*

*Senator Ruff made a motion to approve the Crater Regional Partnership, Skill Streams for Success, application for \$97,000 with the staff recommended contingency.
Motion seconded*

Mr. Arno asked if this funding would be used for ongoing operational costs.
Mr. Denny Morris responded that the funds were strictly for the training itself.
*Senator Ruff called for the question.
All in favor by aye vote
None opposed
Motion passed*

Senator Ruff addressed the Greenville County application for a Continuing Education Center Feasibility Study. He stated that he fails to understand why there is a need for a study to conclude what is already known.

Mr. Watkins agreed, restating that the need for this type of center is already known so why not just do it and not study it. He made a motion not to recommend approval of the application.

*Senator Ruff made a substitute motion to allow Greenville County to amend their application to propose something more concrete than a study for Committee review prior to the April Commission meeting.
Motion seconded*

Senator Ruff withdrew his substitute motion.

*Mr. Watkins' motion is seconded.
All in favor by aye vote
None opposed
Motion passed*

D R A F T

Ms. Thomas suggested that the Committee look at all study requests in the same fashion as this application. It is not the charge of the Commission to fund studies.

*Delegate Hogan made a motion to deny all study requests.
Motion seconded*

Mr. Mike Davidson, Campbell County Economic Development Director, spoke on behalf of the study requests. You cannot develop an economic development strategy without conducting a study.

Mr. Arthur commented that he was not uncomfortable with making this policy decision.

Delegate Hogan withdrew his motion.

Mr. Arthur stated that because of time, they would have to delay the remaining projects until the next meeting of the Committee to take place before the Commission.

Mr. Watkins suggested that the Committee should hear the comments of those individuals present.

Mr. Rick Huff of Franklin County spoke to his workforce projects. He was willing to withdraw the County's study applications and that they accept the staff's recommendation to hold off on the Ferrum Water Line Extension request.

*Senator Ruff made a motion to accept the staff recommendation for the Ferrum Water Line Extension application.
Motion seconded
All in favor by aye vote
None opposed
Motion passed.*

Mr. Rick Huff addressed Franklin County's Basic Adult Education Services/Literacy and GED Training request.

Delegate Hogan questioned the Commission's ability to fund program costs.

*Mr. Watkins made a motion to approve staff's recommendation to approve contingent on the commitment of a local contribution/match.
Motion seconded
All in favor by aye vote
None opposed*

Mr. Huff addressed Franklin County Existing Industry Training Fund request. He commented that this training is being done by the Community College.

D R A F T

Mr. Watkins made a motion to hold this application until the next meeting of the Committee when additional information can be presented.

Motion seconded

All in favor by aye vote

None opposed

Motion passed

Mr. Huff addressed Franklin County's HVAC Career and Technical Course application. This funding will be used for equipment.

Delegate Hogan made a motion to approve staff's recommendation to approve contingent upon a local funding match.

Motion seconded

Those in favor by aye vote

*Opposed: **Senator Ruff***

Motion passed

Mr. Huff addressed Franklin County's Workforce Development and Skills Training request. This training is also being done by the Community College.

Senator Ruff made a motion to hold the application until the next meeting of the Committee.

Motion seconded

All in favor by aye vote

None opposed

Motion passed.

Mr. Ted Daniel inquired as to the status of the Prizery application.

Delegate Hogan made a motion to hold this application until the next meeting of the Committee.

Motion seconded

All in favor by aye vote

None opposed

Motion passed

The next meeting of the Committee will take place the night before the Commission meeting, at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned

Submitted by **Carthan F. Currin, III**

Executive Director of the Commission

D R A F T